

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 49 of 1898.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd December 1898.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bangavasi " ...	Calcutta	25,000	26th November, 1898.	
2	" Basumati " ...	Ditto	15,000		
3	" Hitaishi " ...	Ditto	800		
4	" Hitavadi " ...	Ditto	About 4,000	25th ditto.	
5	" Mihir-o-Sudhakar " ...	Ditto	1,600	25th ditto.	
6	" Prativasi " ...	Ditto	.....	28th ditto.	
7	" Samay " ...	Ditto	3,000	25th ditto.	
8	" Sanjivani " ...	Ditto	3,000	26th ditto.	
9	" Som Prakash " ...	Ditto	1,000	21st ditto.	
10	" Sulabh Samachar " ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	" Banga Vidya Prakashika "	Calcutta	200		
2	" Samvad Prabhakar " ...	Ditto	2,000	25th, 26th, 28th and 29th November and 2nd December, 1898.	
3	" Samvad Purnachandrodaya "	Ditto	200	1st and 2nd December, 1898.	
HINDI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Marwari Gazette " ...	Calcutta	400		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Hindi Bangavasi " ...	Calcutta	6,500	28th November, 1898.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	" Bharat Mitra " ...	Calcutta	.....	22nd to 26th and 28th November, 1898.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Hablul Mateen " ...	Calcutta	.....	
2	" Mefta-hur-safar " ...	Ditto	.....	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Darussultanat and Urdu Guide."	Calcutta	320	24th November, 1898.	
2	" General and Gauhariasfi "	Ditto	330	23rd ditto.	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>					
1	" Nusrat-ul-Islam " ...	Calcutta	.....	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Ulubaria Darpan " ...	Ulubaria	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bangabandhu " ...	Chandernagore	.....	25th November, 1898.	
2	" Bankura Darpan " ...	Bankura	572	23rd ditto.	
3	" Burdwan Sanjivani " ...	Burdwan	240	29th ditto.	
4	" Chinsura Vartavaha " ...	Chinsura	400	20th ditto.	
5	" Education Gazette " ...	Hooghly	1,350	25th ditto.	
6	" Pallivasi " ...	Kalna	475	23rd ditto.	
BENGALI.					
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Murshidabad Hitaishi " ...	Murshidabad	655	23rd November, 1898.	
2	" Pratikar " ...	Ditto	603	25th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	14th September, 1898.	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	309	14th ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	400	10th ditto.	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	About 600	20th November, 1898.	
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	600		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400		
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	243	23rd November, 1898.	
2	"Kangal" ...	Cooch Behar	.....	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur	180	.....
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling	.....	November, 1898.	
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishi" ...	Faridpur	755		
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	316		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal	300		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	21st November, 1898.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	2,400	27th ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur	.....	25th ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca	About 500		
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	500	28th November 1898.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla	450		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	120	23rd November, 1898.	
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet		
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar	340	15th ditto.	

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

Paddy thefts in the Murshidabad district. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 23rd November complains that paddy thefts have become rife in Panchthupi and the neighbouring villages in the Murshidabad district, and invites the attention of

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 23rd, 1898.

the officers of the Baronga thana to the necessity of keeping careful watch over the chaukidars, so that they may remain on the look-out for paddy thieves.

A dacoity in a village in the 24-Parganas district. 2. A correspondent of the *Sunay* of the 25th November reports that a dacoity was lately committed at the house of one Padmaraj at Datsala, within the jurisdiction of the Mahestala outpost in the 24-Parganas district. The

SUNAY,
Nov. 25th, 1898.

local police is making an investigation. Dacoities are being repeatedly committed in these parts, but hardly one of them is being traced.

Kala Admis on the Calcutta Maidan. 3. The *Hitavadi* of the 25th November says that certain European residents of Chowringhee consider it an impertinence on the part of the *kala admis* to sit in numbers on the *maidan* in front of the Museum in order to

HITAVADI,
Nov. 25th, 1898.

enjoy their tiffins, *pan*, and smoke; and they have requested the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to stop the nuisance. People from the mufassal coming to visit the temple in Kalighat stop on their way to that shrine in order to see the Museum, which is an object of great curiosity with them. Nobody has any right to deprive them of the innocent pleasure which they enjoy in this way. And one fails to see what heinous offence they commit by eating their tiffin, chewing their *pan*, and enjoying their *chilum* in the open place where they take their rest. It is to be hoped that the authorities will not pamper the European community by conceding to them their unjust demand. If the *kala admis* be so great an object of hatred to these Europeans that they cannot even bear their sight, then it were best for these white men if they never set foot on the country of the *kalus*.

HITAVADI.

Chaukidars and the chaukidari tax in a village in the Howrah district. 4. The same paper has learnt that the panchayats of Changalpur in the Ulubaria subdivision of the Howrah district commit great injustice in the assessment of the chaukidari tax. Several pleaders, mukhtars, and other men of means, as well as people related to the

DACCA PRAKASH,
Nov. 27th, 1898.

panchayats, have been exempted from the tax, whilst the poor are being ground down under its burden. The chaukidars, moreover, do not keep watch every night, nor does the Sub-Inspector take notice of their neglect of duty.

Bad characters in the Dacca district. 5. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 27th November has heard such bad reports regarding a certain resident of Daschira, under thana Shivalaya in the Dacca district, that he may be put down as a regular dacoit. Though he does

not much oppress his fellow villagers, he robs helpless travellers. The difficulty of proving keeps back many persons from uttering anything against him. Something like anarchy reigns in that part of the country; for, thanks to the petty police officers, well-known bad characters are often kept out of the sight of the higher officers of the department. Taking advantage of this state of things, many are living by theft and oppression.

SOM PRAKASH,
Nov. 21st, 1898.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

An Honorary Magistrate of Santipur in the Nadia district. 6. The *Som Prakash* of the 21st November objects to Babu Haridas Roy, Honorary Magistrate of the Santipur Bench, in the

Nadia district, coming to Court in the afternoon and sitting up till 8 or 9 in the evening. On the 3rd November he held Court till 8-45 P.M. When the hour mentioned in the summons is 10 A.M., and when parties have to attend Court at that hour, it is very wrong to keep them waiting till late in the evening.

SANJAY,
Nov. 29th, 1898.

The Deputy Magistrate of Madaripur. 7. The *Sunjay* of the 25th November never thought that under Sir John Woodburn there could be so high-handed, arbitrary, and insolent an officer as Babu K. M. Chandra Mukharji, Deputy Magistrate of Madaripur, is. It is the duty of Government to remove from the responsible position

of rulers of men all officers, native or European, who lose their heads in the pride of power, and commit oppressions on a meek people. Babu Ballal Bihari Datta, a school-master of Bhagalpur, was arraigned before the Deputy Magistrate on the charge of sending opium in a postal parcel. He knew nothing as to who sent the opium. Neither the Magistrate nor the prosecution cared to see that the parcel which contained the opium was numbered 45, whilst the parcel which was sent by Ballal Babu was numbered 54. In spite of this mistake, the case dragged its slow length along for ten months, and Ballal Babu did not get his acquittal before he had undergone much harassment, and been put to considerable loss. This is the way the Deputy Magistrate spent his valuable time, and yet he is paid by the Government!

A correspondent has criticised in detail the proceedings of the Deputy Magistrate in this case.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 25th, 1898.

8. The *Hitavadi* of the 25th November says that complaints are frequently heard against mufassal stamp vendors to the effect that they sell stamps above their proper prices. A Faridpur correspondent has just written to say that certain stamp vendors in Palang bazar are selling two-anna stamps for ten pice, four-anna stamps for five annas, and eight-anna stamps for nine annas. The authorities should put a stop to these exactions by stamp vendors.

HITAVADI.

9. Referring to the Lizziepur tea-garden case under section 505 (b) of the Penal Code, the same paper writes as follows:—

The two cases under section 505 of the Penal Code.

The Joint-Magistrate of Kurseong, before whom the case was tried in the first instance, was a Magistrate of the first class, as well as the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling. In judicial matters, therefore, the Joint-Magistrate was not subordinate to the Deputy Commissioner, but in his executive capacity he was. And it was executive necessity which made the Joint-Magistrate deal with the case in the manner he was directed by the Deputy Commissioner, in spite of his own independent opinion to the contrary. The time and place of the occurrence and the seriousness of the case deterred the Joint-Magistrate from disposing of it in accordance with his own independent judgment. The place of occurrence was the Nepal frontier, the time the critical one of prevalence of plague, and the case a case of alleged sedition. Under the circumstances, the Joint-Magistrate did not think it right to proceed with the case independently, and asked for the Deputy Commissioner's orders. That officer, with an eye to the good administration of the district under his charge, gave instructions which appeared to him to be the best. It was in consequence of these instructions that Manechhetri, although an innocent man, came to be so much harassed. An appeal to the High Court has led to Manechhetri's acquittal. But what of the two prisoners who were tried on a similar charge in Darjeeling, and are now suffering imprisonment? Their offence was similar to Manechhetri's; but they have not means enough to appeal to the High Court. One of these two prisoners is a woman in the family-way.

If section 505 of the Penal Code is applied to every case in which an ignorant and illiterate man circulates a baseless rumour which he has heard from somebody else, then the Indian jails will be unable to take in the enormous number of men who will have to be sent there. Rumours of wars and treaties, and, in fact, all rumours which circulate among the masses, awfully distort and exaggerate the truth. Is it possible for Government to find out everyone of those who circulate such rumours?

In no other civilised country in the world would cases like these be possible, much less would the accused be sent to jail. Every human being will be astonished to hear that a pregnant woman has been imprisoned for an offence under section 505 of the Penal Code.

Sir John Woodburn is implored to take the cases of these two prisoners into his consideration, and innocent as they are, to discharge them from jail. His Honour is not the man to refuse to hear a just prayer.

10. A correspondent of the same paper draws attention to the fact that in virtue of the extension of the Bengal Tenancy Act to the Jalpaiguri district and to Orissa, all revenue agents who had the power of conducting rent suits in those two places will be thrown out of employ, because such suits will be henceforward heard by Munsifs. The Government is therefore requested to empower all revenue agents in Orissa and Jalpaiguri to conduct rent suits in Munsifs' Courts.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 25th, 1898.

The revenue agents practising in Orissa and Jalpaiguri.

11. Referring to the judgment of Mr. Douglas, District Judge of Dacca,

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 26th, 1898.

The District Judge of Dacca and the Subdivisional Officer of Munshiganj. in the appeal of Adam and Kadam against a decision of the Subdivisional Officer of Munshiganj, the *Bangavasi* of the 26th November says that

Mr. Douglas has not only accepted the explanation of the Deputy Magistrate and praised him highly, but has promised in his judgment always to support the latter. He has also vented his spleen against the Hindus of Munshiganj, who he says are at the root of the mischief as regards the Deputy Magistrate. The Judge has acted rather unwisely. Has he any proofs that the Hindus are to blame? He has, no doubt, every right to believe the Deputy Magistrate, but he should not have rejected the statements made by the accused on oath simply because he believes the Deputy Magistrate. There ought to have been a local investigation.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Nov. 27th, 1898.

12. A respectable Muhammadan juror named Golam Kuddus Chaudhuri,

The Sessions Judge of Dacca, and a Muhammadan juror. says the *Dacca Prakash* of the 27th November, was insulted and threatened by the Sessions Judge of Dacca with imprisonment because he was going out to say his prayers. His application for permission to leave the Court during prayer-time was rejected by the Judge, on the ground that the law does not allow jurors any such leave.

(d)—*Education.*

DARUSSALFANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Nov. 24th, 1898.

13. The *Darussultanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 24th November has heard that the Calcutta Madrassa authorities require the services of a physician to attend upon the boarders in the institution, and suggests the name of Dr.

A physician for the Calcutta Madrassa. Ayatulla, M.B., M.D., Edin., as that of the man who may be appointed to the post, because he is the only Musalman who has obtained the highest degree in medical science.

SAMAY,
Nov. 25th, 1898.

14. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 25th November says that in the last Upper Primary Examination a question was set in mensuration requiring a knowledge of square roots, in contravention of the order of the Director of Public Instruction that no such question should be set. No less than 12 marks have been allotted to this question. Who is responsible for this irregularity?

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 23rd, 1898.

15. A correspondent complains in the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 23rd November of mismanagement in the Jangipur Municipality. The enforcement of Act V in the Municipality causes great hardship to outsiders in

The Jangipur Municipality in the Berhampur district. the absence of public latrines and urinals. In some wards there is a paucity of roads; while the lanes and bye-lanes stand very much in want of repair. The road through Upper Baraj to Chota Kaliayi has been closed to traffic, which means a great hardship, as it is the only road which remains above water in the rainy season. It is said that, as before, the residents of Jangipur, who have occasion to go to the Charitable Dispensary, will not any longer be ferried free of cost. No lamps are lighted in Ward No. IV, owing, it is said, to want of menials. The assessment of taxes has not been properly done, one class of people being improperly treated.

EDUCATION
GAZETTE,
Nov. 25th, 1898.

16. Babu Joges Chandra Sastri, writing in the *Education Gazette* of the 25th November, suggests the adoption of one or both of the following methods for the removal of the monkey nuisance in Puri:—

(1) The catching of monkeys by means of traps and their deportation to distant islands or forests. This is the method which was adopted to remove a similar nuisance in Benares, and the Municipal Commissioners of Puri resolved, at their meeting of the 7th October 1896, to adopt it.

(2) The employment of a number of men for a few days to scare away monkeys by firing blank cartridges. The men so employed should be strictly prohibited from using shots, and should be made liable to punishment if they kill monkeys. This method was some time ago adopted with success in Manirampur near Barrackpore.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 23rd, 1898.

17. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 23rd November invites the attention of the Subdivisional Officer of Kandi in the Murshidabad district to the deplorable condition of the road between Kandi and

Panchthupi. This road was constructed by Babu Rames Chandra Mukherji, late Subdivisional Officer of Kandi; but as it has not been repaired since then there have been 10 or 12 breaches, making it very difficult for cart traffic, while portions of the road have been encroached upon by the owners of fields on both sides of it.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 25th, 1898.

18. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 25th November calls attention to the hardship caused by the absence of a sufficient number of intermediate and third class carriages in the train which leaves Damukdiaghata at half past nine every evening for Poradah, and requests the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities to attend to the matter. Only one intermediate class carriage is attached to the train, half of which, again, is reserved for ladies.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 25th, 1898.

19. The *Hitavadi* of the 25th November says that a guard on the Southern Punjab Railway was suspended for having entered a compartment reserved for female passengers and which contained a lady, and has at last been let off by the Railway authorities with a fine of Rs. 50. The lady, who was in the compartment, made serious allegations against the guard, but the latter in his explanation said that he had entered the compartment in order to see if the lady was comfortable or not.

If the guard was guilty, that is, if he entered the compartment with the intention of molesting the lady, the Railway authorities did wrong in simply fining him Rs. 50 after what may be called a private trial instead of sending him for trial by a Magistrate. The punishment inflicted has, in fact, been quite inadequate, considering the nature of the offence committed. Offences like this, when committed, seldom come to light; and if in the small number of instances in which they do come to the knowledge of the public the offenders are let off with light punishments, a premium is set upon their commission.

If, on the other hand, the guard was innocent, he should not have been punished at all. But the fact of his punishment by the Railway authorities is sufficient to excite the suspicion that he was not innocent. But if he was not innocent, the Railway authorities did something extremely wrong by neither dismissing him nor sending him for trial by a Magistrate. It is hoped that Government will enquire into the case, and take steps to have the man properly tried.

HITAVADI.

20. The same paper is sorry to learn that Colonel Gardiner, the able Agent of the East Indian Railway, will retire from service in April next. No other Agent of that railway did his work so ably, examined complaints so impartially, or did so much to remove the grievances of all classes of passengers, irrespective of their colour or creed, as Colonel Gardiner. The writer is especially indebted to the Colonel for always attentively listening to him, and in one instance saving him the trouble of defending himself against

a groundless charge of defamation. May he enjoy health and long life after retirement.

21. A correspondent of the same paper, who describes himself as a boy, says that on the 15th November last he was travelling from Syamnagar to Sealdah by the train which left the former station at 2.30 P.M. with a box near him containing a harmonium. At the Barrackpore Station some twenty-five or thirty soldiers entered the intermediate class carriage, in one compartment of which he was travelling, and on seeing the harmonium asked him for the key of the box. But the correspondent not being in possession of the key at the time, the soldiers took the box from him, and were about to force it open, when, on second thought, they desisted from the attempt, and threw the box down forcibly before him, but took away his wrapper, and began to make themselves merry by throwing it about from one compartment to another. On reaching the Dum-Dum Station they threw down the wrapper on the floor of the carriage, and went away.

The editor remarks that cases of soldiers making fun at the expense of native railway passengers and to their serious inconvenience are by no means rare, and asks if the authorities cannot do something to check the mischief.

22. The *Sanjivani* of the 26th November says that the population of Mymensingh is mainly agricultural, and its trade is carried on by water routes. But those routes having been blocked up by the late earthquake all export has ceased, and the price of rice has fallen abnormally low. If this state of things continues for any length of time, the condition of the peasantry of Mymensingh will become extremely miserable. The rivers and canals of Mymensingh had been gradually shrinking under the operation of natural causes, and the earthquake hastened the process. A large expenditure on the restoration of those water routes is not therefore advisable. Speaking generally, railway extension seems to be the only means of removing the economic difficulties of this district. Railway extension will facilitate not only exports from the district, but also imports of foreign goods into it.

(h)—General.

23. The *General and Gauhari Asfi* of the 23rd November is glad that Sir Antony MacDonnell is about to succeed Lord Sandhurst as Governor of Bombay. In the opinion of journalists the appointment of Sir Antony to

the Governorship of Bombay after Lord Sandhurst will be as welcome to the people of the Bombay Presidency as the Viceroyalty of Lord Ripon after Lord Lytton was to the people of India. But who will succeed Sir Antony MacDonnell as Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces? In the writer's opinion Sir John Woodburn, whose official life was mostly spent in those provinces, is the fittest person to succeed Sir Antony. He may be transferred there, and Mr. Cotton of the Bengal Civil Service, who is now the Chief Commissioner of Assam, may be appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

24. The *Hitavadi* of the 25th November has the following :—

A case of oppression by the Postal Department. One seldom hears of a case of oppression committed by the Postal Department. But here is a case showing how an educated and respectable man of the middle class was put to loss and harassment by a certain postal employé.

Babu Ballal Bihari Datta is a school-master in Bhagalpur. On the 8th February last he posted a parcel at the Champanagar post office to the address of his father, residing in Kartikpur, in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district. In the usual course the parcel ought to have been delivered to the addressee on the 11th February, but it was not delivered on that date. On the day following the Postmaster of Kartikpur sent word to the addressee by a peon, asking him to come to the post office personally in order to take delivery of a parcel to his address after payment of the postage due. The addressee, though an old man, came punctually to the post office, but failed to get his parcel, and was told to come at 4 o'clock, as the peon in whose

HITAVADI,
Nov. 25th, 1898.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 26th, 1898.

GENERAL AND
GAUHARI ASFI,
Nov. 23rd, 1898.

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charge the parcel was had at the time gone out to deliver letters. On coming to the post office at 4 o'clock he was shown a broken parcel. He refused to take delivery of this, and went away after telling the post office people that he would bring a complaint. The next day being a Sunday, on the 14th February the gentleman made a complaint to the Postal Superintendent. The man lived for four months after having made this complaint, and it is now ten months since he made it, but he received no reply during his life-time, nor has anybody else received any after his death.

On the 16th February Babu Ballal Bihari on hearing from his father made complaints to the Postal authorities both in Bengal and Bihar. On the same day he received a letter from the Postmaster of Champanagar describing the condition of the parcel, so far as he remembered it, at the time of posting. This letter he forwarded to the Deputy Postmaster-General, Bihar, on the 18th February. On this an enquiry was commenced in the Postal Department, and while it was going on Ballal Bihari Babu all of a sudden received a letter (not a summons or warrant) from Kumud Babu, the officer in charge of the Madaripur subdivision, bearing number 726 and dated the 6th August, to the following effect :—"As a complaint has been made against you before this Court under section 9, sub-section (d) of Act I of 1878 (for transmission of opium), and the 20th of August has been fixed as the day of hearing, you are hereby required to attend on that day and defend yourself against the charge. If you fail to comply, a warrant will be issued against you." Ballal Bihari Babu was astounded. What was the matter? He knew nothing as to who had sent, how much opium, and in what manner, to what person. But in obedience to the letter he came on the appointed day to Madaripur. There he learnt that one *tola* of opium had been found in the parcel he had sent on the 8th February, and that some articles he had sent were missing therefrom. But he failed to learn who brought the false charge against him. On his duly submitting a petition he was given only a copy of a letter, dated the 29th July, written by the Excise Sub-Inspector of Madaripur. Though the letter was dated the 29th July, the complaint was preferred on the 18th July! On the first day of the trial it could not be known who the complainant was, nor was anybody else, except the poor Excise Sub-Inspector, present in Court that day. From the Sub-Inspector's behaviour and from what could be gathered from him, it was clear that he knew nothing about the case. The accused was told in due time that in order to suit the convenience of the Postal Superintendent, and at that officer's request, the hearing of the case was postponed to the 5th. Another petition being then made on behalf of Ballal Babu in order to ascertain the name of the complainant and the charge against the accused, a copy was obtained of a letter, No. 4349, dated the 21st February, written to the Subdivisional Officer by the Postmaster of Madaripur. This letter was to the following effect :—Parcel No. 45 (54?) from Bhagalpur was sent by Ballal Bihari Datta. As it smelled of opium, the Postmaster of Kartikpur opened it in the presence of a number of men, and with the other things mentioned found therein about a *tola* of opium; the parcel is sent to you, in order that you may do the needful. On the 26th February the Deputy Magistrate sent back all other things contained in the parcel, except the opium, to the post office, and at the same time recorded his opinion that it was no offence to have in possession one *tola* of opium. All this happened in February, and it is not known under what authority and on whose complaint the Deputy Magistrate suddenly instituted proceedings against Ballal Babu on the 18th July. The Postmaster-General, Bengal, on being asked for information, replied by his letter No. 29816, dated the 26th August last, that the case pending against Ballal Babu in the Court of the Deputy Magistrate of Madaripur had not been instituted at the instigation of the Postal Department. But whoever may have caused the case to be instituted, it is undeniable that it caused much harassment to the poor school-master. He was fortunate, however, in escaping unpunished, and for this he must thank his stars. No enquiry was made why the parcel was delayed in transmission and delivery, why at the time of delivery it did not bear the seal which it bore at the time of posting, and why its contents had been tampered with. But the sender was put to loss and harassment for no fault of his. The conduct of certain officers of the Postal Department appeared very strange in connection with this case. If the authorities

do not of their own motion make an enquiry into this matter, the writer will write about those officers in another issue. But it is hoped that justice will be done in the case by Mr. Owen, who is now acting as the Postmaster-General. If he takes an interest in the case, he will be able to unravel much mystery and to find out if any officer of the Department had any hand in its getting up. Mr. Owen's attention is particularly attracted to this case in order that he may prevent occurrences of a like nature in future.

25. The same paper regrets that though the unsatisfactory nature of the Plague inspection at Chausa.

brought to the notice of the authorities, there are still causes of complaint in regard to such inspection which have to be removed. Babu Hari Mohan Pal, a resident of College Square, Calcutta, started with his family from Howrah on the 2nd October last, in the up Punjab mail in order to travel to Delhi. He halted four days at Gaya, and on the fifth day arrived at Chausa. There he was detained as a passenger from an infected place, and he was not allowed to go till after three days' detention in the plague camp and till he had produced a telegram from Dr. Zahiruddin, a Municipal Commissioner for the College Square ward, stating that the ward was not infected. Dr. Ratan Bihari Pal, however, who was a fellow passenger with Hari Mohan Babu, was, through the intercession of the Assistant Surgeon, allowed to go only after a day's detention, although he had come from Beniatola, a place very near College Square. On enquiry of Babu Hari Mohan, the following facts have been brought to light:—

1. Though there is a female Inspector at the station, in the camp, all persons, male and female, are examined by male doctors.

2. The method of examination in the camp is calculated to wound the feelings of the examinees. Ordinarily the names of the persons detained, irrespective of sex, are called out by the Assistant Surgeon at the door of the camp, and the person called has to come out to be examined by the European doctor. The practice of calling out the names of females is particularly unpleasant to the people of this country, and is considered disgraceful to the party concerned. It is true that if the person called out refuses to come, the European doctor goes in and examines him, but he does not do so without taking the person to task for his refusal to come out. Hari Mohan Babu having made a similar refusal, the Assistant Surgeon told him angrily that if he did not come out to be examined, he would suffer the consequence of his conduct. The persons who are detained in the camp are not prisoners, and it is certainly not right to treat them in this rude and insolent fashion.

3. When a person is allowed to leave the camp the compartment he occupied is not cleansed, the person who next comes to lodge in the compartment must have it cleansed at his own expense or live in the midst of the filth and refuse his predecessor has left.

4. There is no *purda* arrangement either on the platform of the railway station or in the plague camp. The authorities said some time ago that proper arrangements would be made in this connection, but the writer regrets to say that arrangements have not yet been made.

5. In the matter of examination more consideration is said to be shown to European than to native passengers. European ladies and gentlemen are, as a rule, not required to alight from their carriages, whilst the most respectable native passenger is made to come down and stand in a row on the platform with others. Even native ladies are not examined in their carriages.

26. The same paper has learnt that the Lieutenant-Governor's present of fifty rupees to the school boys and girls of

The Lieutenant-Governor at Hazaribagh for a feast and his condescension in returning the salutation of every poor raiyat have greatly endeared him to the people of the place, who unanimously declare that they never before saw such a noble-minded ruler.

27. The same paper has learnt from Dariapur in the Nadia district that undue delay takes place in the delivery of letters to the villagers. The stamps of the post office, moreover, being very old, the dates stamped on the letters cannot be deciphered and the extent of the delay cannot be exactly ascertained. The peons of this post office do not always keep in stock a sufficient number of post-cards and

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stamps for sale. The practice, also, of distributing letters through the villagers causes much inconvenience and allows the contents of private letters to transpire. Protests against this practice have borne no fruit.

28. The *Sanjay* of the 25th November complains against Maulvi Afsear-

uddin, Income-tax Deputy Collector of Faridpur. He assesses to the tax people who earn much less than Rs. 500 a year. Ganga Charan Pal and Bansi

Nath Pal of Dignagar within the jurisdiction of the Muksudpur thana, who are potters by profession and earn not more than Rs. 100 a year each, have been assessed to a tax of Rs. 10 per head. These two men some years back carried on a small money-lending business, and the Deputy Collector would not listen to them though they produced documents to prove that they had given up the business and no longer derived any income from it. The Maulvi ought to be transferred from Faridpur.

29. The *Sanjivani* of the 26th November writes as follows:—

What Government should do Chota Nagpur is rich both in agricultural and to remove the poverty of Chota mineral products, the former including many Nagpur. medicinal plants. And yet its inhabitants are

among the poorest of the poor. The first and principal reason of this seems to be the absence of a fixed rent and of the raiyat's ownership in the soil. In Chota Nagpur the raiyats have no direct relations with the zamindars, the rent being realised from them by a class of middlemen called *thikadars*, who vary their demands every year according to the amount of the produce. The tenants, therefore, fare no better in good years than they do in bad ones.

The second reason of this poverty is the *mahajan*. Slavery does not exist in any part of the Bengal Presidency except Chota Nagpur, where it is known under the name of the "kumia system." This system extensively prevails in the Hazaribagh district. The unfortunate man who makes a loan of even ten rupees has to execute a bond of slavery under which, for mere food and raiment, he has to work like a slave till his death, and under which his wife or son has sometimes to work as a slave after him. To prevent oppression by *mahajans* the law provides for the registration of these bonds, but this has failed to mitigate the evil. The law does not indeed empower the *mahajan* to compel a debtor to work like a slave, but such is the force of custom that a debtor does not venture, even when so advised, to avoid the obligation he thus incurs. If a cooly recruiter pays off his debt for him, he is released from one bondage only to enter into another. It is a disgrace of British rule that in 120 years it has failed to put a stop to the oppression by *thikadars* and *mahajans* in Chota Nagpur. There can be no better proof of the poverty of Chota Nagpur than that, in spite of its rich soil and sparse population, a larger number of coolies are recruited there than in any other part of the Bengal Presidency.

Sir John Woodburn has seen the condition of the country and the people with his own eyes. We hope that he will try to remove the distress of the people. Nothing will remove the distress of Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas except a right of ownership in the soil given to the raiyat, a cessation of the *mahajan's* oppression and the spread of education to enable the people to appreciate and guard their rights.

30. The same paper says that a Deputy Magistrate has almost always

Two appointments by Sir John been appointed as Presidency Magistrate of the Woodburn. Northern Division. But a departure has been made from this practice in the appointment of Mr.

Bonnaud in the place of Syed Amir Hossein. So long a Deputy Magistrate had also been appointed as Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery. But now the Lieutenant-Governor's Private Secretary, Mr. Gayer, has been temporarily appointed to that office. The people of this country must lose every hope of preferment if they are deprived of one post after another even under an impartial ruler like Sir John Woodburn. It is hoped that Sir John will act with great consideration in these matters.

31. The *Bangavasi* of the 26th November has the following:—

Native clerks staying at Simla The Viceroy and his Secretaries and subordinates who go up to Simla at the commencement of in winter. summer and return therefrom when the winter sets in have all come down, but the poor clerks of the Public Works and

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Military Departments have not been allowed to come back. They will be obliged to pass the severe winter at Simla. It is thought that those who are born in the hot plains of Bengal must be able to pass the winter at Simla, while those who are born in cold countries will fail to do so. There was protest on every side, in the Indian and in the English press. The clerks made the objection that their wives and children might suffer in the cold. The order has, therefore, been passed that their families should be sent down in winter and taken up in summer at Government expense. This means that the clerks will be deprived of the society of their wives during the winter, not the best way of passing that season.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

32. Referring to the case of Manbir, who, though convicted under section 505 of the Indian Penal Code and sentenced to nine months' rigorous imprisonment, has been discharged by the Calcutta High Court, the *Charu Mihir* of the 21st November writes as follows:—

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The case of Manbir shows how very dangerous section 505 may prove, even when there is no ground for the institution of such a case, or if a Magistrate makes a mistake in deciding it. The new colouring that has been given to the law will only add to the difficulties of the trial of such cases. What of the chorus of self-praise that was raised, saying that the law had been simplified?

33. The *Hindu Ranjika* of the 23rd November has the following:—

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Sir John Woodburn on the Council on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, Sir John Woodburn observed that, as the measure had

received the support of the great majority of the members of that Council, it was not possible to abandon it, or, in other words, that the Bill must be passed into law. Indeed, such has been always the case, and very properly too. The officials also have good reason to show so much *zilzil*. As was pointed out by His Honour, "at the commencement of all changes there is certain to be opposition and friction of sorts, but as soon as people become accustomed to the change, these temporary sorenesses vanish." But whatever the Lieutenant-Governor may say as to popular opposition to change and subsequent acquiescence in it, it strikes us that the reason why our protests bear no fruit is that we do not know the language, the manner and the tone and style in which they should be made. We ought to try to understand this, to make ourselves acquainted with the way in which we can induce Government to listen to our representations. Indeed, so long as we remain mere masters of empty words and do not endeavour to improve ourselves, our protests must prove infructuous. The number of educated people in this country is very small; that is why everything ends in smoke, why protests do not prove lasting. Though the rulers so clearly show what our defects are, we fail to learn and see our shortcomings. It is our habit to magnify small things, but the small things thus magnified by us assume after a little time such attenuated proportions that they become scarcely visible. Does it not behove us to try to free ourselves from this weakness, to profit by the lesson now taught us by the Lieutenant-Governor?

Whatever we may have to represent to Government should be represented to it in language befitting a subject people. We act in haste and make muddles. What is conceived in haste is sure to be disposed of in haste. As we are unable to see our own faults, His Honour's words ought to be a lesson to us. If instead of hastily saying anything and everything that comes uppermost in our minds, we make our protests in calm and courteous language, they are sure to bear fruit. And what if they do not? There is no reason to expect that Government will accept our advice in every matter. It is Government that has given us this system of Local Self-Government; it is Government, again, which is reforming the system, rather restricting its scope. If we can show that the proposed reform is not good, that it will produce undesirable consequences, Government will, of course, modify their proposal, as they have always done in such cases. But do we act in that way? Do we show that any particular change is producing good or bad results? The fact is, we always make a great fuss whenever any change is proposed, but

all noise and agitation ceases as soon as the change grows stale. This is why the Lieutenant-Governor has spoken of the vanishing of "temporary sorenesses," and the Secretary of State has spoken of India as an uncivilised country. The following remarks of the *Hitavadi* on the Lieutenant-Governor's speech will explain what we mean—"To argue now is to cry in the wilderness. The only course left open to the rate-payers is to agitate their case in England. * * * Redress is impossible without a systematic agitation in England and without informing the British public of the real circumstances of the Calcutta rate-payers." We do not like such writing. Nor is it wise to hold out the threat of appealing to England in every matter. It is madness, pure and simple, to expect that the moment the threat of appealing to England is held out, the Government in India will be frightened into modifying any proposed law, or that the moment an agitation is made in England, the English people will snub the Indian Government and veto an obnoxious measure.

The *Hitavadi* says:—

"The arguments put forward against the Bill by the Hon'ble Babus Narendra Nath Sen and Surendra Nath Banerji have had no effect on the authorities here. But the English people, it is hoped, will weigh all arguments and judge impartially and without bias. No delay should be made in sending representatives to England and commencing an agitation there." Is the proposal a reasonable one? Is it probable that a measure which is considered good and necessary by the officials charged with the administration of the country will be modified by the English people who are at so great a distance? In what matter has such a thing been witnessed? Supposing we make a powerful agitation in England, produce a great impression on Parliament and score a triumph at a particular sitting of Parliament by procuring a packed House, the question is, cannot the House at one of its subsequent sittings reverse its former decision?

What we should now do is to protest properly. The way protests are being made is not likely to prove successful. The present is not the time for making violent protests. Our protests should be well reasoned and couched in respectful and courteous language. The statements made by His Honour may be sound or otherwise; but, instead of making a violent and blustering demonstration over them, we should patiently try to convince him. His Honour has done well by giving expression to his real sentiments. He has said what he feels; let us, if we are able, try to convince him of his error by reason and argument. This is more likely to produce good results than an agitation in England. If Sir John Woodburn who is such a sympathetic ruler can be convinced, a remedy will be found here. No remedy, it is certain, will be found anywhere else. The *Hitavadi* is protesting in language of bitter acrimony. Such vigour and violence is certainly unseemly and unlikely to lead to any good results, when Government can easily gag him if it is so minded. The *Samay* newspaper, too, has taken upon itself to preach a homily to the Lieutenant-Governor in connection with his speech on the Municipal Bill. This is not politic. One should think of one's worth before undertaking to preach to others. His Honour has done well by not concealing anything in his speech, and by pointing out one of our weaknesses. We have also been given time for making protests. What else is wanted? It only remains for us to conduct ourselves with sense and try to convince the Lieutenant-Governor by means of proper protests. If this is done we shall gain our object even here. The other members of the Legislative Council should be also convinced and their objections answered patiently and respectfully. This will necessitate no expenditure of money. Raising public subscriptions for an agitation in England would be merely wasting the country's money.

34. Referring to the attitude of Sir John Woodburn towards the Municipal Bill, the *Pratikar* of the 25th November

Sir John Woodburn on the Municipal Bill says:—

One cannot help praising the Lieutenant-Governor for His Honour's patience and industry in dealing with the question. The other day he said that, when the majority of the members of Council were in favour of the Bill, it could not be thrown out without very cogent reasons and arguments to the contrary. He has made his declaration regarding the Bill

after studying the public agitation and the arguments publicly urged in connection with it, and we have therefore no reason to be dissatisfied. But nothing can dispel our anxiety regarding the consequences of a passing of the Bill. We learnt that the Secretary of State for India and many Anglo-Indians were very desirous of planting on Indian soil a poison-tree like the Municipal Bill. But we hoped that Sir John Woodburn, who is so anxious to please his subjects and who is so high-minded, would do and say something on our behalf. The fates are, however, against us. There can be no doubt that His Honour feels for us; only he has not been able to speak out his mind as freely as Mr. Thorburn of the Punjab did.

35. The *Samay* of the 25th November thus continues its comments on Sir John Woodburn's speech on the Calcutta Municipal Bill:—

Sir John Woodburn on the Calcutta Municipal Bill.

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Sir John Woodburn says that, if the Bill had really aimed at the destruction of Self-Government, he would never have supported it. According to His Honour, it does not aim at the destruction of Self-Government; it merely seeks to alter the present form of Self-Government. But is this really the object of the Bill? From the way in which the executive officers of the Calcutta Municipality conduct themselves at present it seems that they are not responsible to anybody for their actions. They do not care a fig for their lawful masters, the Commissioners. There is, again, a strong *esprit de corps* among them which leads them to screen one another, so that the guilt of any of them cannot be easily proved. And yet it is these officers whose powers the Bill is going to increase while circumscribing the powers of the Commissioners! Must it still be said that the Bill does not aim at the destruction of Self-Government and that it will benefit the public? His Honour says:—

"Self-Government is not circumscribed into one solitary and sacred system. Self-Government would cease to be a defensible method of government, if it were refused permission to adjust itself to the lessons of experience. No government is defensible which does not seek to amend and improve itself whenever weakness and inefficiency become apparent. From this essential law Self-Government is no more free than autocracy. If Self-Government in one form has proved unequal to the whole of the task imposed on it, the form must be varied."

True, an established mode of government should be amended as soon as its weakness and inefficiency become apparent. Granting, for argument's sake, that Self-Government has not proved a complete success in the Calcutta Municipality, whose fault is it, we ask, that it has not? So far as we are able to judge, Government is mainly responsible for it; for it is owing to the defects in the law which it has made that the Commissioners have not been able to exercise any control over their subordinate executive officers, and the latter have received the support of Government in every matter. The executive officers have opposed, at every step, all that the Commissioners have hitherto endeavoured to do for the improvement of the Municipality, while they have received credit from Government for originating those schemes when accomplished.

His Honour also observes:—

"Under the name of the Government are gathered those great sections of the people, the *Muhammadans* and the poor, who, but for Government nomination, may never be represented at all."

In reply to this we will only ask, if representatives of the Muhammadans and the poor have really no place in the General Committee, could not the Act have been so amended as only to provide for such representation? Where was the need of a wholesale amendment such as has been proposed by Sir Alexander Mackenzie? Is there really no representative of the Musalmans at present on the General Committee? And how many representatives of the poor has Government, which professes to be their *Mâ Bâp*, hitherto nominated under its existing powers of nomination? We do not believe that when the Bill is passed any elected or nominated Commissioner will concern himself about the poor. There are at present no representatives of the poor nominated by Government, on the General Committee or in the Corporation. It is the elected native Commissioners who bring the grievances of the poor to the notice of the Municipality

and thereby get them redressed. When the Bill is passed, these Commissioners will lose even this small power of befriending the poor, and the poor people of the town will have nowhere to lay their heads in.

Again, Sir John Woodburn has displayed his ignorance by classing together the Muhammadans and the poor of the town. We do not know how far our Musalman brethren will be gratified by this. We have no hesitation in declaring that it is not true that, but for Government nomination, the Muhammadans would have had no representatives on the General Committee or in the Corporation. If His Honour had examined the election results in the Calcutta Municipality for some years past, with some care, he would have seen that almost no Musalman of ability has yet been unsuccessful in his candidature.

We give innumerable thanks to the Lieutenant-Governor for his opposing the provisions in the Bill relating to the framing of bye-laws, preparation of the budget, and cremation of dead bodies. But we knew beforehand that provisions like those could not and would not be passed, and we therefore see no reason for expressing any very great delight or gratitude for His Honour's opposition to them. As the most objectionable feature of the Bill remains unaltered, it is perfectly immaterial whether those minor amendments are made or not.

His Honour speaks in praise of the Commissioners :—

"The information and advice about local needs which these delegates bring will be of most important service. There could be no more excellent illustration than in the assistance they gave last hot weather in calming the fears of the people, and establishing the temporary hospitals, which were the best means of re-assuring them."

All this is true, and yet they are going to be deprived of all powers and turned into puppets. But will these people, with information and advice about local needs, stand as candidates for election, when the Bill will be passed?

We had hoped that a just, discreet and conciliating ruler like Sir John Woodburn would never suffer the Bill to be passed in its present form. But unfortunately for us he is unable to grant our prayer. We would not have been so much sorry if he had said this in plain words. We are sorry that he has been deluded by the representations of his subordinates into supporting the fundamental principle of the Mackenzie Bill. Now that even Sir John Woodburn has supported the Bill, redress is to be looked for only from the general public of England.

36. The *Bangavasi* of the 26th November has the following :—

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Sir John Woodburn on the Cal-
cutta Municipal Bill.

Do you now understand it? Do you understand anything from hearing Sir John Woodburn's speech? Is any doubt still left in the mind as to the certainty of the Calcutta Municipal Bill becoming law?

The Lieutenant-Governor has tried to please with sweet words. We are not displeased. Why should we feel displeased for nothing and thereby pain ourselves in body and mind? When the Lieutenant-Governor is anxious to re-assure us with sweet words, it surely behoves us to feel easy and re-assured.

And what if you do not feel easy? You may make an agitation in England, waste the poor Indian's hard-earned money in that country. But what will you gain by it? The British Government will do nothing, can do nothing without reading the reports of its officials here, without upholding their *zid* and *zubberdust*. All questions are now raised in the British Parliament and debated and discussed in that assembly. But how many of your prayers have been granted by it?

Calcutta is the metropolis of Englishmen; it is the English merchant's place for trading. He is sure to make it a place after his own heart, to mould it to his liking and to keep it under his control; and all your protests and agitations and discussions will be only crying in the wilderness. If you do not wish to remain tightly bound by the chains of the Englishman's law, you are free to leave Calcutta and plant new villages in the interior of the country. You lack nothing, you have money and ability, and you can put forth energy and effort. Why then break your head by striking it against a stone?

Truth to tell, we possess very little ability. The little that we do possess hardly suffices for anything beyond meeting the requirements of service, the legal and medical professions and the exigencies of religious, social and political agitation. As regards Local Self-Government, that is a Dead sea apple, the

gift of the British Government. Fascinated with its beauty, we have allowed it to set brother against brother and become a source of internal dissensions in native society. Government, however, has kept this privilege of Local Self-Government in its own hands. We merely get bites and scratches for our pains. Hindus as we are, and bound to do the duties allotted to us in this life, surely it does not become us to engage in such demoniacal practices.

And you British Government, what do *you* understand? Do you now realise the trouble which is to be experienced in the end if by means of indulgence a subject people is made to entertain expectations and aspirations which it is hard to fulfil? Do you now see how audacious they must grow in the end, when an attempt has been made to satisfy them by granting them only a particle of a privilege which does not suit or benefit them in any way? It is not statesmanship on the part of the rulers to whet the expectations of a subject people, to elate and intoxicate them in this way. Why do you unsettle our minds by holding out to us hopes of concessions which you cannot grant in their entirety and which we are not entitled to obtain? Would this worthless agitation have ever been made, or would anybody have ventured to say anything, if that Dead sea apple granted by Lord Ripon, that infatuation of Local Self-Government had not exercised the minds of a dozen Babus in the country? You have willingly let an itching sore to remain open, and have so long enjoyed the pleasurable sensation of scratching, and it is now your turn to experience the burning sensation. It is you who must bear it. But one word we shall say, because you have given us the liberty to say it; it is this, let not your new law do any violence to our religious usages and observances, or put us to any inconvenience in the matter of water-supply. We say this, because the British Government is always anxious to please its subjects.

37. The *Sanjirani* of the 26th November has the following:—

Sir John Woodburn on the Calcutta Municipal Bill We are grateful to Sir John Woodburn for admitting that the Calcutta Municipal Bill requires to be radically altered in several particulars; we are grateful for this, because high officials do not easily admit errors. But we are sorry that Sir John does not see all the defects of the Bill. The proposed constitution of the General Committee is a most unfair one. Only four out of its twelve members are to be elected by the rate-payers. Is it fair to keep the representatives of those who maintain the Municipality with their money as mere puppets among those who will manage its affairs? It is contended that the merchants who are contributing by their capital and exertions to the wealth and beauty of the town should have their fair share of power in the management of its affairs. But are there no traders in the town except European traders? A Marwari contended in the Town Hall meeting that in trade the Marwari is not a less important person than the European. Is there any answer to this? Government should remember that it is by trading with natives that English merchants are making money. Who furnishes the capital for the trade which is promoting the prosperity of the town—natives or Europeans? Why then deprive the towns people of their just rights on the plea of the rights of trade? The proportion in which the metropolis is indebted to the different interests composing its population is determined by their relative contributions in the shape of rates. The state to which the trade of the town will be reduced in the event of natives flying from it may well be imagined by those who saw what took place during the late plague scare.

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Nov. 26th, 1898.

On what principle will Government reserve to itself the right of electing four out of the twelve members of the General Committee? Government contends that if this is not done the poor and the Muhammadans of the town will not receive from the Municipality the attention they deserve. But is this a right view of this matter? Let Government point out the particulars in which the Commissioners have injured the poor or the Muhammadans of the town. The poor of the town, whether Hindu or Musalman, are troubled for two reasons—(1) increase of taxation; (2) too many sanitary rules. But who are for increasing taxation and multiplying sanitary rules—the Commissioners nominated by Government or the elected Commissioners? In what particular do the interests of those who elect the Municipal Commissioners clash with the interests of the poor of the town? If Government is so kind to the poor, why does it not confer the right of election upon the payers of small rates?

One of the chief arguments urged in favour of the Bill is that the existing system is unequal to the task of coping with evils like the plague. Sir Alexander Mackenzie evidently thought this an unanswerable argument, for it was not only made use of by him in his speech in the Council, but has also been inserted in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill. But were the Commissioners of no service during the plague scare? Did they not show their efficiency in that emergency? How much money have the Europeans of the town spent, and how many hospitals have they established, for the suppression of plague? Is it fair that those who spend nothing and do no work shall sit on the General Committee, driving into a corner those who do spend liberally and work hard?

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 28th, 1898.

38. Referring to Sir John Woodburn's speech on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, the *Prativasi* of the 28th November observes

The Lieutenant-Governor on the
Calcutta Municipal Bill.

We should have hung down our head in shame

and self-condemnation at the thought of the worthlessness of our countrymen if Sir John Woodburn had produced any real proof of neglect of duty on the part of the Commissioners, that is to say, if he had shown beyond the shadow of a shade of doubt that on account of the negligence of the Commissioners and their talking tendency, the town had not improved in certain directions. Our countrymen have not the education and working skill which Englishmen, in general, possess. Still, the English rulers will not be true to their name as just rulers, if they deprive the natives of India of the small powers they have conferred upon them, without showing that those powers have been in any case abused. We must say, with the editor of the *Indian Nation*, that "the Corporation is going to be hanged without a trial." We believe Sir John Woodburn possesses all the qualities of a good judge. And as a good judge he ought to see very carefully the facts adduced both on behalf of the prosecution and on behalf of the defence, and ought to pay due regard to what the accused says in self-defence. Bacon says:—"For the advocates and counsel that plead, patience and gravity of hearing is an essential part of justice," and we hope that the learned and upright Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal will not fail to keep in mind this wise advice. His Honour will certainly change his mind, if he endeavours to understand the arguments which the clear-sighted editor of the *Indian Nation* has urged on behalf of the rate-payers, and how well he has proved the Lieutenant-Governor's own errors.

The Lieutenant-Governor should not in this matter act hastily or without deep deliberation. We make no doubt that His Honour will change his views if he sees reason for so doing after a careful consideration of the arguments of the native press. Gladstone was a Tory by education, but experience led him to change his political creed, and he ultimately became the leader of the Liberal party. If, likewise, Sir John Woodburn, after a full consideration of the matter, changes his mind in regard to the Municipal Bill, the circumstance will redound to his own credit.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAH,
Nov. 20th, 1898.

39. Speaking of the *Golghar* or granary at Bankipore, erected by an Englishman in 1774 as a store-house of grain for distribution in times of famine, the *Chinsura Vartava*

aha of the 20th November makes the following remarks:—This *Golghar* tells us clearly of the good intentions and large sympathies of the English officials a century back, and proves how very wanting their successors of the present day are in these qualities. The visitor to the *Golghar* understands the difference at once without being told anything about it. All those who discuss politics and the present and future of the country should pay a visit to this building, and they will see that it is a silent teacher.

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 23rd, 1898.

40. The *Sansodhini* of the 23rd November says that while the people of Chittagong, forgetting for the time all their sufferings, were elated at the prospect of offering their homage at the feet of the Viceroy, a gloom was cast over their minds by the refusal of the authorities to allow the proposed

address to be presented. There was some delay, it is true, in submitting the draft address for approval. But as no information regarding the Viceroy's intended visit could be obtained in time, in consequence of the offices having been closed for the holidays, the delay could not be helped. If Mr. Anderson had been placed in charge of the arrangements for the Viceroy's reception, he would, no doubt, have called a public meeting of the residents and given them time to do the needful. Or, if Mr. Skrine had been in Chittagong to-day, he would have freely mixed with the people and got up amusements and invited the co-operation of Rajas, Maharajas, Nawabs and Zamindars, and would not have let the opportunity pass by of collecting funds for doing some good thing for the town, such as a town hall or a pure water-supply.

The people of Chittagong never dreamt that their address would be rejected, and the conduct of the authorities has sadly disappointed them. Here are the draft address, Mr. Manisty's letter, and the resolution of the Chittagong Association adopting the address:—

To His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Victor Alexander Bruce, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, P.C., LL. D., G. C. M. G., G.M. S. I., G. M. I. E., Lord Bruce of Kinloss and Lord Bruce of Torry, in the Kingdom of Scotland, and Baron Elgin, in the United Kingdom,—Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCE,

I, on behalf of the Chittagong Association, which represents the people of all classes and creeds in the district of Chittagong, most respectfully and loyally approach Your Excellency and Lady Elgin with this humble address of welcome, on the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this ancient and historic town of Chittagong.

The people of this outlying district had the honour of paying their homage once before to Your Excellency's illustrious predecessor Lord Dalhousie, Her Imperial Majesty's Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and that they are glad that a second opportunity of showing their deep loyalty to their benign and Gracious Sovereign, through Her Viceroy of India, has been presented to them.

During the period of Your Excellency's administration various calamities, famine, plague, and cyclone in particular, befell the people, and Your Excellency will be glad to learn that the distressed people have been showing signs of recovery from the severe shocks received by them. In this connection it may be mentioned that the people are grateful to Mr. J. D. Anderson, the Collector and Magistrate of the district, who heartily sympathised with the cyclone-stricken people, and granted them speedy relief in the shape of distribution of rice, remission of rent of Noabad taluks in the affected area and suspension of payment of Government revenue and grant of loans for agricultural improvements.

Your Excellency's predecessor Lord Dalhousie, after his visit to this district, having duly considered the claims of Noabad talukdars, offered them the boon of permanent settlement, but they in their ignorance missed the opportunity and failed to avail themselves of the privilege.

The people on this auspicious occasion of Your Excellency's visit beg to approach Your Excellency and renew the prayer for grant of permanent settlement of the Noabad taluks, and fervently hope that Her Majesty's Government may again recognise the justice of the prayer and mark Your Excellency's visit to this town by the grant of the same boon to the people.

The protracted survey and settlement operation carried on at an enormous cost in the district and the successive scarcity and cyclone, have greatly impoverished the people and unsettled their minds. The order of realisation of costs of survey and settlement will cause a great hardship on the people in their sore distress, and they fervently hope that they may be relieved of the charge. The people most respectfully beg to convey their deep and heartfelt loyalty to the august throne of Her Imperial Majesty through Your Excellency, and fervently pray that Your Excellency and Lady Elgin may be blessed with long life and prosperity.

Dated Chittagong, the 9th November 1898.

From—G. E. MANISTY, Esq., Offg. Commissioner of the Chittagong Division,
To—The HON'BLE JATRA MOHUN SEN.

I HAVE to-day received Government's order on the address which I forwarded for you on 3rd instant. The Hon'ble Mr. C. W. Bolton, Chief Secretary, writes as follows:— "I have laid the enclosed draft address before His Honour. The Viceroy cannot accept an address from one man as this seems to be, and it is too late for Government to enquire about the Association and whether it desires to present this address. Please inform Babu Jatra Mohun Sen accordingly at once. The address cannot, under the circumstances, be forwarded."

The proceedings of a Special General Meeting of the Chittagong Association, held on the 9th November 1898.

THE draft address for presentation to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, on the occasion of his intended visit to this district on the 12th instant, having been read and adopted, it was resolved that the names of 17 members be added to that of the President as presentants of the address to His Excellency the Viceroy, and necessary amendments be made.

II. That the Association regrets at the reply of Government declining to forward the draft address to His Excellency the Viceroy, as having been submitted late to enable Government to enquire about the Association and whether it desires to present the address. The Association further regrets that the Government thought it at all necessary to make the above enquiry, inasmuch as the power, existence, stability and the representative character of the Association has been recognised by Government from a long time. The practice of adopting addresses with immaterial alterations at subsequent meetings, after submission of drafts by Associations, Municipal bodies, District Boards and other public bodies was well known to the local authorities. It is to be regretted that the local authorities did not report the practice to Government.

III. Resolved that notwithstanding the infructuous attempt on the part of the Association to have an opportunity to welcome His Excellency and convey their deep and heartfelt loyalty by means of presentation of an address, the Association records its deep sense of loyalty to the Gracious Sovereign and Her Viceroy and Governor-General of India on the auspicious occasion of His Excellency's visit to this town. It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the Secretaries to the Governments of Bengal and India.

KAMALA KANTA SEN,

President.

The Commissioner's letter has extremely grieved and astonished us. The Chittagong Association has been quietly working for the last twenty-five years. Both the Government of India and the Government of Bengal have on various occasions recognised its existence and respectability by consulting it about measures of legislation. The local authorities, too, invariably consult it. It is a matter of no small shame and regret, therefore, that the Commissioner should have expressed a doubt about the very existence of the Association.

41. The same paper says:—

Lord Elgin in Chittagong. India has always been ready to do her duty and has ever been anxious to show respect to her Sovereign, and it is a pity that she should yet be subject to a sedition law.

The Viceroy alone can say whether the loyal demonstration at Chittagong has made him reflect over the needlessness of that dreadful law. Chittagong has not failed to show honour to the Sovereign's representative. Uninvited and unurged by the Divisional Commissioner it has shown that honour. It would seem that the Commissioner purposely omitted to do so, with a view of testing Chittagong's loyalty. We venture to say that in this test of loyalty Chittagong

has deserved to be placed in the first class. But Lord Elgin has put Chittagong to a trouble which will last for years to come by imposing on it a burden of 16 lakhs of rupees. We are afraid that this may even prove a permanent burden. Mr. Allen, the head of the survey operation, was for defraying this cost of the survey out of the State exchequer, on the ground that the survey was undertaken mainly for the benefit of Government. The Bengal Government too was of the same opinion. But Lord Elgin has decided otherwise. We do not know in how many years these 16 lakhs of rupees will be realised. This survey will prove a permanent cause of trouble. This is a day, however, for showing honour to Government and not for criticising its actions. We will therefore say no more on this subject.

42. In reference to the petition of Sures Chandra Sarkar's widow for a

The petition of the late Dr. Sures Chandra Sarkar's widow. monthly allowance, the *Pallivasi* of the 23rd November asks:—When the widows of Messrs. Rand and Ayerst are in receipt of suitable allowances because their husbands were killed while in Government service, may not the wife of a subject who was killed by the soldiers of Government expect some allowance?

PALLIVASI,
Nov. 23rd, 1898.

43. The *Sanjivani* of the 26th November says that two Europeans have met with their death by fall from horse-back during the demonstration in honour of Lord Elgin at Mandalay, but His Lordship is all the same going on dining, dancing and amusing himself.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 26th, 1898.

44. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 29th November says that though the people of Bengal are grateful to Sir John Woodburn for his order directing the appointment of the eldest son of the late Dr. Sures Chandra Sarkar of Barrackpore to a Rural Sub-Registrarship, they will feel still more grateful to His Honour if he does something to rescue the family of the deceased from the helpless condition into which they have been thrown by the death of the man who was their only support after the sad accident. It is hoped that Lord Elgin will lend a sympathetic ear to the prayer of the poor widow, who has submitted a memorial to him, and out of the compassion which befits a Sovereign, will make some provision for her and her children. Some time ago a European died in the North-Western Provinces, in consequence of the carelessness of a compounder in giving him poison instead of the medicine prescribed. Lord Elgin settled an allowance on his widow and sent her to England. It is hoped that His Excellency will make no distinction of European and native in performing an office of charity, and will settle a similar pension on the unhappy widow of Dr. Sures Chandra, at least till her eldest son gets some employment. A few rupees spent from the Indian exchequer for such a purpose will certainly endear the Government to the subject people.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Nov. 29th, 1898.

URIYA PAPERS.

45. Referring to the ruling of the Chief Commissioner of the Central

Stopping of preparations for the reception of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. Provinces, that the grand preparations which are being made at Khandwa for his reception must be stopped, as the amount spent thereon will be so much waste of public money, the *Utkaldipika* of the 12th September observes that the action of the Chief Commissioner is good and just, and recommends the same to the notice of other administrations in British India.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Sept. 12th, 1898.

46. Referring to the settlement proceedings in Orissa, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 14th September observes that the settlement is a source of trouble both to the tenants and to the landlords, who have been compelled to spend a good deal unnecessarily. The writer is of opinion that the demarcation of the boundaries of villages in undisputed cases has been mostly incorrect, as will be seen by comparing the new with the old maps. As a necessary consequence, boundaries were determined according to the possession of the parties, which meant that some gained unjustly at the expense of others.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 14th. 1898.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 14th, 1898.

47. The same paper is of opinion that the Honorary Magistrates of Khondah should be supplied with a decent office-room, containing necessary furniture and writing materials.

The office of the Honorary Magistrates of Khondah.
 48. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 14th September is glad to learn that the District Magistrate of Puri has ordered the Puri Municipality to remove the latrine which they had partly built close to the southern wall of the Puri Jagannath Temple, and thereby has paid some regard to Hindu feeling on the subject.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Sept. 14th, 1898.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 3rd December 1898.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.